

# The Polish Review





# Poland, on the Basis of the Atlantic Charter, Ready for Friendly Understanding with Russia

## 1,095 POLISH JEWS ARRIVE IN PALESTINE FROM RUSSIA

Jerusalem, March — 735 Jewish children and 360 adult Jews, all Polish citizens, evacuated from the U.S.S.R., have arrived in Palestine thanks to the assistance of the Polish Embassy and Polish Army under General Anders.

The children arrived in Palestine by sea via India, and were welcomed by Polish authorities. A large percentage showed a lack of vitamins and general weakness, in consequence of under nourishment when in Russia.

Almost all the children are orphans whose parents died in Russia or were unable to leave the U.S.S.R. All remembered with gratitude the Polish Army's assistance in getting them out of the U.S.S.R., as well as the marvelous conditions of their stay in India, which lasted only a fortnight.

At present these children are being distributed in groups of about twenty on farms for the purpose of recovering their health and gaining strength.

The Polish Government contributes \$20 for each person's upkeep and the Jewish agency and other Jewish institutions provide the lodging and education.

The Polish Consul-General in Jerusalem Witold Ryszard Korsak has been appointed Polish Consul General at Beyrouth; and the former Chargé d'Affaires in Chungking, Jan Drohojowski, has been appointed acting Consul-General at Jerusalem.

### EXPERIMENTS ON WOMEN

Information has been received by the Polish Government in London that in the concentration camps of Ravensbrueck and Fuerstenberg in Mecklenburg — both of which are special camps for women — the German authorities are experimenting on Polish women with vaccines, instead of making these experiments on animals, and are also using the inmates for dietary tests which have resulted in many deaths.

## "WE SHOT . . . 70 PRIESTS, 18 WOMEN, 11 OFFICERS"

From Kuibyshev the Soviet Information Bureau Reports that on March 2nd, Leopold Bischof, a German prisoner of war, from the First Company of the 28th Regiment of the 8th Jaeger Division, testified:

"I served in the Military Police Battalion in Baranowicz. We were acting as guards in a concentration and war-prisoners camp. In the spring of 1942, there arrived at the prison a party of Polish hostages and soon after they were all shot. One day, early in May, we shot seventy priests, eighteen women and eleven officers of the Polish Army."

### NO WONDER !

Ostbahngeneral-  
directionsbahnschutz-  
polizeiobergruppen-  
fuehrer Sander, 34, fell on  
February 7th, 1943, for the  
Fuehrer and the Reich.

(Krakauer Zeitung)

## OSWIECIM CAMP, 250 DIE DAILY

London, March — The Polish Cabinet met under General Sikorski's chairmanship to discuss the latest tragic news received from Poland about German crimes.

The concentration camp at Oswiecim has become a mass graveyard for Poles. According to latest reports received by the Polish Government large convoys of Polish prisoners continue to pour into that camp. On January 16th three such convoys arrived at Oswiecim, consisting of 5,000 people. On January 25th a further 4,000 were brought in. Mass-executions are carried out every day from morning to night. Not less than 250 people die daily, victims of executions, death from torture, hunger and epidemics.

Sixty-six Polish miners from Upper Silesian coal mines at Brzeszcz, accused of sabotage by slowing down their output were brought to Oswiecim and shot in batches of ten each day.

London, March—The following statement was issued by the Telegraph Agency in London:

"Until the conclusion of agreements between the U.S.S.R. and the Third Reich, concerning the partition of Polish territories, the Treaty of Riga and its frontier clauses, approved in 1923 by the Conference of Ambassadors and by the United States, were never called into question by Russia.

"These Russo-German agreements were cancelled by the Polish-Soviet Agreement of July 31, 1941. The question of any return to the German-Soviet frontier line of that year, requires no further comment.

"The so-called 'Curzon Line' was proposed during the hostilities of 1919-1920, solely as an armistice line and not as a frontier.

"Polling ordered by the Soviet occupying authorities in Eastern Poland in 1939, was contrary to international law. It constitutes one of those unilateral acts which are not recognized by the Allied Nations.

"Therefore they cannot form the basis for any legal acts and cannot in particular deprive Polish citizens of their title to Polish citizenship or to relief organized for their benefit by the

Polish Government, with the aid of the Governments of Great Britain and the United States.

"All German proposals, previous to 1939, which were aimed at gaining Poland's cooperation for military action against Russia were repeatedly rejected and this led finally to the German attack on Polish territory in September 1939.

"The declaration of the Polish Government of February 23rd, 1943, backed unanimously by the entire Polish Nation was not intended to produce a controversy which would be so harmful at the present moment.

"It only stated the indisputable Polish right to those territories in which the Polish Nation will continue to live in harmony with its Ukrainian and White-Russian fellow-countrymen, in accordance with the principles proclaimed by the Polish Government.

"The Polish Government, categorically rejecting the absurd insinuations concerning alleged Polish imperialistic claims in the East, has expressed and continues to express to the Soviet-Government its readiness for an understanding based on friendly mutual relations."

## UNDER THE HEEL OF HITLER

The German Special Court at Katowice sentenced Mikolaj Ledwon, aged sixty-nine, to death for having fought against the German "Freikorps" in September 1939.

V.V.V.

In Wlodek the sentence of death was passed upon Kazimierz Sawinski, an agricultural worker, for hitting his German employer who admonished him for slow work.

V.V.V.

A Polish agricultural worker, Czeslaw Bukowski, assaulted his German employer when the latter rebuked him for knocking off work too early. The Special Court in Hanover sentenced Bukowski to death.

V.V.V.

A Special Court in Bremen sentenced two Poles, Wachowiak and Mrozinski, to death and two others,

Przybysz to four years and Jakubowski to three years severest penal camp for the theft of clothing and foodstuffs.

V.V.V.

For illegal slaughter a German Special Court in Lodz has sentenced three Poles to death: Stanislaw Poros, Andrzej Maciaszek and Weronika Zlotowska. Maciaszek's wife, Bronislawa, was sentenced to eight years penal camp.

V.V.V.

Shortly after the mass raids in Warsaw in mid-January, when more than 35,000 people were arrested, similar measures were taken in Cracow, and in Lwow, where the Germans also carried out arrests on a very large scale. Thousands of people were arrested, but their fate is still unknown.

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## EDUCATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION IN POST-WAR POLAND

by DR. STEPHEN P. DUGGAN\*

*Director of the Institute of International Education*



IT IS NOT often in history that a nation has had the terrible experience of almost losing its life and after a century and a half of apparent extinction become fully resurrected, and then after only a quarter century of vigorous life again apparently extinguished. That has been the story of Poland. It must be a people of remarkable vitality and will-to-live that could survive such an experience. And that there is no intention of accepting its present condition as a permanent condition is evident in the existence of this and other Polish Institutes, an important part of whose work is to consider the renaissance of its culture and the reestablishment of its institutions of education so that the national life may not perish from the earth. Like the rest of the United Nations, Poland fully expects the barbarism to which she has been subjected to be extirpated and herself to be restored fully to her vigorous national life.

But Poland will be in a far more terrible situation at the end of this conflict than she was at the close of the First World War. In that war her lands were ravaged by marching armies which caused immense destruction of life and property. In this war the destruction of life and property has been immensely greater. In that war it was the material things of life that were destroyed. But in this war the enemy has determined to destroy the spiritual life of the Polish people, to kill off its leaders and teachers that it may never again revive. And that enemy has gone about his task with a ferocity and malignity that is terrible to behold. But he will fail. He has not and cannot destroy the Polish spirit and it is the spirit that giveth life.

Verily, the Polish people must face the future with patience and determination! Already one generation of students, almost four years, have been deprived of their education which cannot be recovered and this war may see still another such generation though God forbid! Schools and universities have been destroyed, teachers killed or dispersed, libraries burned, laboratories ruined—nearly all the instruments of real civilization blotted out. When a similar fate befell the Chinese people they trudged a thousand miles westward to their wilder regions carrying their libraries and

laboratories on their backs and re-establishing their schools and universities. But in Poland there is no wilder area a thousand miles away which has not been occupied by the enemy and to which patriots might escape. They can only watch the destruction of the fine monuments of their spiritual life and have faith in the better day which will enable them to recover.

And this will be hard because Poland is a poor country and mere existence must come first. But mankind owes one great contribution to Hitler. He destroyed belief in isolationism. We know today that we are all one and that no nation can live unto itself alone. Therefore are the United States and Great Britain at this very moment erecting organizations to enter the war-torn countries of Europe first to give relief, then to re-establish government and simultaneously to rebuild schools and reconstruct education. And this is not in a spirit of charity but in accord with the teachings of the Christian religion and on a lower but necessary plane because enlightened self-interest teaches that a revived and well-established economy in a country is the only basis for international trade and commerce.

The word Institute is an all-embracing word. It has to do with things material and things spiritual, with things that come from without and things that come from within, with the laboratory and the library, with the sciences and the humanities. When this war is over Poland will have to begin from scratch, it will have to rely upon the laboratory to provide the things necessary for mere existence. But it will make a serious blunder if it neglects the library which provides food for the spirit, if it devotes itself to the technical sciences and forgets its humanities.

Poland must learn a great lesson from its enemy. When Germany defeated France in 1870, it was almost a wholly agricultural country. It did not have England's century start in industrialization. It did not have the marvelous natural resources of the United States. It had but little coal and iron, no oil nor cotton, nor copper. Its leaders determined to rationalize its life, to rely upon the university and its laboratories to enable it to become industrialized. Today Germany is the most industrialized country of Europe. It began as a farm in 1870, it became a factory by 1940. But in the process it lost its soul. With the passage of time too much attention to the sciences which deal with material things and too little to the humanities which deal with spiritual

*(Please turn to page 14)*

\* Address delivered in the Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences in America, New York, N. Y.



# POLAND'S NAVY FIGHTS ON!

by WALT ROBINSON\*

ONE of the most unusual features of World War II is the continued participation in hostilities by the armed forces, particularly the navies, of countries which have been overrun and occupied by the Nazis. Poland, Norway, Holland, France, Greece, and Yugoslavia have all been engulfed by the German tide of conquest, but portions of their land, sea, and air forces are today fighting hard in the ever growing hope of liberating their oppressed people from the cruel yoke of the Axis.

Poland was the first of these nations to succumb to Hitler's grandiose plans for world domination, and a small Polish army and air force and a handful of destroyers, submarines, and lesser craft continue to fight courageously against the common foe.

In August, 1939, the Polish Navy consisted of four destroyers, one old torpedo boat, five submarines, one large mine layer, and a number of miscellaneous units such as patrol boats, mine sweepers, tugs, and small river craft, these last for service on the Vistula. This modest naval establishment, based principally on Gdynia, was manned by some 325 officers and 3,300 ratings. Rear Admiral Jerzy Swirski was Commander in Chief of the Navy and Captain Karol Gustaw Korytowski was Chief of Staff.

... Late in August, 1939, it became obvious to Poland's leaders that Germany was planning an early attack on their country. The Reich Navy was, of course, overwhelmingly superior to Poland's tiny fleet, which could not possibly do more than offer a courageous but utterly futile resistance. Consequently, on August 30 the Polish Naval Staff ordered three of its best warships, the destroyers *Grom*, *Blyskawica*, and *Burza*, to leave their base at Gdynia and proceed to a British port. The flotilla was last sighted by German aircraft on the 31st as it rounded The Skaw at the northern tip of Denmark; next day it arrived in a Scottish port.

At dawn of September 1 the German attack broke loose in all its fury. Without warning armored and motorized divisions of the Wehrmacht crossed the frontier and powerful squadrons of the Luftwaffe bombed Polish airfields and fortifications, while from Danzig Harbor the ancient battleship *Schleswig-Holstein* (13,040 tons, four 11-inch and ten 5.9-inch guns), which had been on a "courtesy" visit, commenced a heavy bombardment of the Polish military depot at Westerplatte, across the bay. World War II, long and fearfully awaited, had at last begun.

Early that same morning German aircraft reconnoitered the Gdynia Naval Base, where most of Poland's warships lay at anchor: the mine-layer *Gryf*, destroyer *Wicher*, torpedo-boat *Mazur*, all 5 submarines, and various auxiliary craft. Some hours later about a score of Nazi bombers appeared and at once attacked the ships. The little *Mazur*, hit by a heavy bomb, sank with her anti-aircraft guns blazing. Other units doubtless suffered damage, but their fire is said to have brought down seven of the attacking planes. The smaller craft left for Puck Bay, where they were subsequently destroyed by enemy air attacks or scuttled by their crews. The *Gryf* and *Wicher*, however, proceeded to Hel, the small naval station at the western end of the Gulf of Danzig, while



THE NAVAL FLAG OF POLAND FLIES ON!

the submarines slipped out into the Baltic to harass the enemy as much as possible.

On the morning of September 3 two German destroyers, the 1,625-ton *Leberecht Maass* and *Max Schultz* (five 5-inch guns), appeared off Hel and promptly engaged the *Gryf* and *Wicher*. Both Polish ships received damage, but their own fire was very effective. Repeated hits were made on the *Leberecht Maass* and after a few minutes the Germans broke off the action. The badly damaged *Maass* went down before she could be got back to port.

An hour or so after the German destroyers had retired, angry Nazi dive-bombing planes roared to the attack. Their bombs sank the *Wicher* and set the *Gryf* badly on fire. Next day they returned and blasted the *Gryf* into a total wreck.

Meanwhile, Poland's submarines were prowling about the Baltic in search of the enemy, but targets were few and far between, for the Nazis had little need for sea-borne transport. Aircraft and patrol boats continually forced the submarines to dive and on several occasions bombed and depth charged them. The *Wilk*, damaged by such action on September 5, had to lie on the bottom for some hours to effect emergency repairs and then began a 9-day patrol of the Baltic. At the end of this patrol she undertook the dangerous voyage to England through the mined and heavily guarded waters be-

tween Denmark and Sweden. On September 20 she arrived safely at a British port.

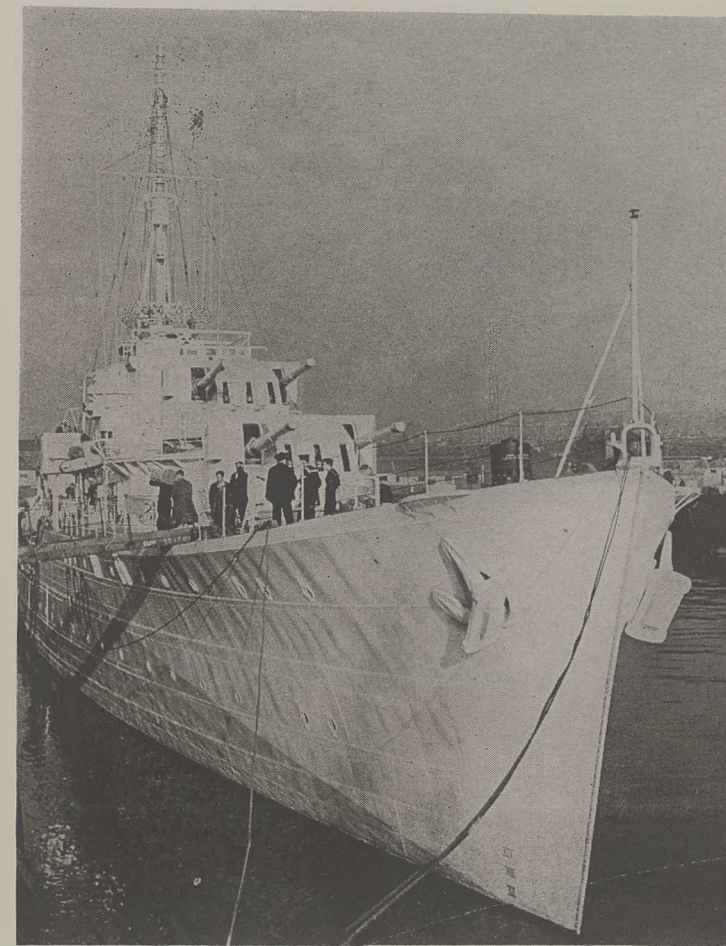
The *Orzel*, which also had several narrow escapes from hostile planes and warships, put in at the Estonian port of Tallinn on September 15. Here she landed her sick captain, Commander Kloczkowski. Next day the Estonian authorities, under pressure from the Germans, ordered the submarine interned and on the 17th proceeded to disarm her by removing her torpedoes and the breech mechanism of her 3.5-inch deck gun. But the *Orzel's* new captain, Lieutenant Commander Jan Grudzinski, had no desire to see his boat forced out of the war in this fashion, and during the night of the 17th-18th he and his men sawed through the steel cables holding the *Orzel* to the dock and took her to sea in the face of heavy fire from the shore. After a very hazardous and difficult voyage the *Orzel* reached a British port on October 14.

The three remaining Polish submarines, their crews in a state of near exhaustion, were all forced to put in at Swedish ports, where they were promptly interned. After more than three years of war these submarines are still laid up inactive in a Swedish port.

Throughout September the German armies in Poland rolled steadily eastward, crushing all resistance, and on the 27th captured Warsaw. During this entire period, however, the little naval base at Hel continued to hold out despite heavy and repeated attacks. German artillery, bombing planes, and



POLISH SOLDIERS OF THE SEA



THE NEW "GROM," LATEST AND LARGEST POLISH DESTROYER

warships (notably the *Schleswig-Holstein* and her sister-ship *Schlesien*) sent hundreds of shells and bombs crashing into the fortifications before the brave garrison finally capitulated on October 1—four days after the fall of the capital. While the siege was in progress the naval gunners on shore scored a hit on one of the *Schleswig-Holstein's* turrets, killing every man inside. Hel was the last piece of Polish territory conquered by the Germans.

In Britain, meanwhile, the Polish warships which had escaped from the Baltic were being prepared for active service with the Royal Navy and under the general strategic direction of the British Admiralty. Rear Admiral Swirski, who had escaped from Poland through Rumania and France, established his headquarters in London. At his disposal were the destroyers *Grom*, *Blyskawica*, and *Burza*, the submarines *Orzel* and *Wilk*, the transport *Wilja*, and the training ship *Iskra*. These last two units had been outside the Baltic for some time prior to the German attack.

The destroyers, first units ready for sea, were extensively employed on escort duties and anti-submarine patrols. They discharged this exacting work in a very efficient manner and received high praise from the Admiralty. Early in November, 1939, two of them assisted British light forces in repelling an enemy air attack on a convoy in the southern area of the

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North Sea. A week or two later, on November 17, General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Premier of the Polish Government-in-exile, visited the destroyers and submarines in a Scottish port and awarded decorations to 20 officers and men for "courage and endurance" in bringing their ships from the Baltic.

The submarines *Orzel* and *Wilk* each made a number of operational cruises during the early months of war, but had no opportunity to attack German warships or merchant vessels, much to the disappointment of their eager crews. The Nazi invasion of Norway in early April, 1940, completely altered this situation, however, and on the 8th the *Orzel* sighted a German freighter in the Skagerrak. Surfacing, the *Orzel* summoned the German to stop, but her order was ignored. She then fired a torpedo which, striking the enemy vessel, caused her to list and a bad fire to break out aft. German soldiers began jumping overboard; some of them were picked up by Norwegian fishing craft in the vicinity. The *Orzel*, fearing that the ship might not sink, fired a second torpedo. This struck amidships and the enemy vessel broke in two, the forepart sinking almost instantly. She proved to be the 5,261-ton *Rio de Janeiro*, heavily laden with tanks, ammunition, horses, and several hundred fully equipped soldiers. . . . Two days later the *Orzel* torpedoed and sank her second victim—an armed trawler in the Skagerrak.

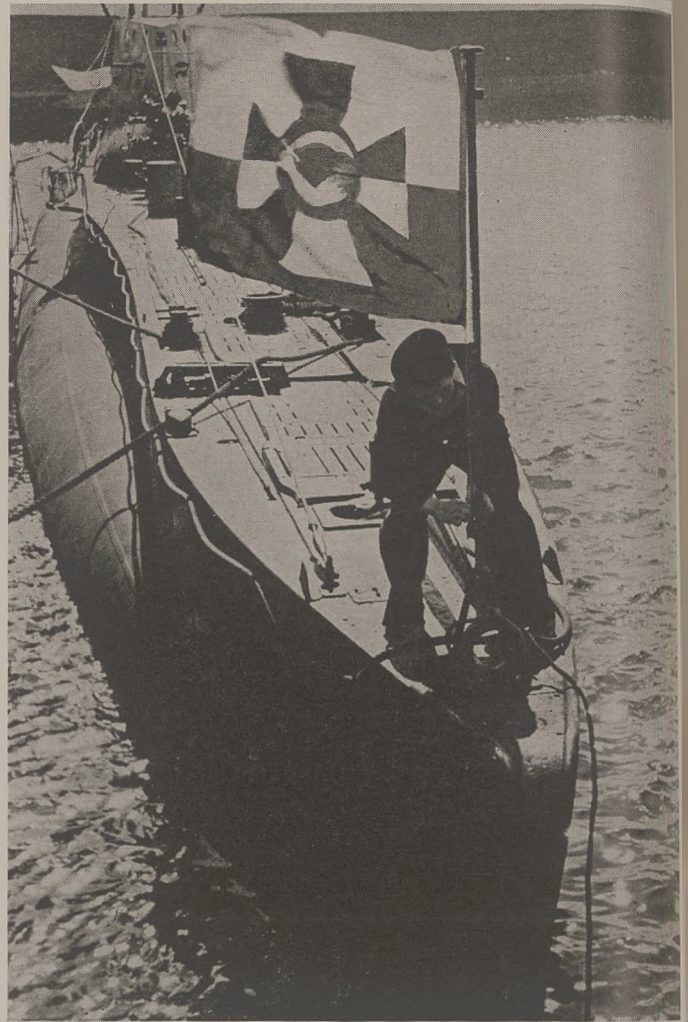
Within a week of the German invasion, Allied land forces debarked in North Norway. Poland's destroyers aided Anglo-French naval units in protecting the troopships from hostile U-boats and aircraft. While engaged in this work, however, the *Grom* was attacked on May 2 by Nazi bombing planes. She was hit by several heavy bombs and went down quickly, taking with her one officer and 60 men. About two weeks later her sister-ship, the *Blyskawica*, was similarly attacked, but escaped destruction and shot down two of her assailants.

On June 11 the Polish Admiralty announced that the *Orzel* was considerably overdue and must be presumed lost. Months afterwards it was stated that some of her brave company were believed to be prisoners of war in Germany. It is likely that the *Orzel* was damaged by depth charges or air bombs and, in a sinking condition, had to come to the surface and surrender.\*

Throughout the remainder of 1940 Poland's tiny naval establishment continued to work effectively with the Royal Navy, but practically no specific information has been released concerning its operations during this critical period. It is known, however, that a considerable number of small auxiliary craft were added to the Navy. These included the 1,160-ton escort vessels *Médoc* and *Pomerol* (four 3.9-inch guns, 10.5 knots), which were converted merchantmen; three fast motor-patrol boats; and a dozen ex-Belgian drifters. The 12,000-ton Polish liner *Gdynia* was taken over for use as a depot ship, while the old 22,189-ton French battleship *Paris*, which had fled to a British port after the fall of France, became the barracks for the Polish naval personnel. Two Free French subchasers, *CH 11* and *CH 15* (107 tons), were also loaned to the Poles. The *Médoc*, *Pomerol*, *Gdynia*, and the transport *Wilja* were subsequently transferred to the Polish Merchant Marine.

In January, 1941, a new submarine, the *Sokol* ("Falcon"), was launched for the Polish Navy by a British shipyard. No details concerning her have been divulged, but before the

\* The report that the *Orzel* surrendered is now known to be untrue. The submarine went down with her entire crew.



POLISH SUBMARINE "ORZEL"

end of the year she was making things very unpleasant for the Axis. During October and November alone she sank one supply ship by gunfire; torpedoed two others in an escorted convoy and a 5,000-ton armed merchant cruiser; and scored two torpedo hits on a large destroyer, probably sinking her. In the course of these operations, which presumably took place in the Mediterranean, the *Sokol* was several times counterattacked by depth charges, but on each occasion escaped destruction.

A new destroyer, the British-built *Piorun* ("Thunder"), was also acquired early in 1941. From photographs she appears to be very similar to Britain's destroyers of the *Javelin* class.

Operating with a British destroyer division under Captain (now Rear Admiral) Phillip L. Vian, the *Piorun* took an active part in the pursuit of Germany's super-dreadnought *Bismarck*. She was the first unit of the Home Fleet to sight the *Bismarck* on the morning of May 26, and at once proceeded to shadow her. The *Bismarck* attempted to drive the *Piorun* off, first with her secondary armament and later with her giant 15-inch guns, but the Polish destroyer tenaciously maintained contact. The *Piorun* was soon joined by the cruiser *Sheffield*, which for several hours thereafter kept Admiral Tovey in the *King George V* constantly informed of the *Bismarck's* course and speed. Soon after midnight of the 26th-27th Captain Vian's destroyers attacked, scoring two

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# A POLICY OF EXTERMINATION



REAT numbers of Poles—many more than seven and a half million—remain in the Western provinces illegally “incorporated” in the Reich. But the deportations go on without a break.

These deportations are made in two directions. Poles are deported primarily to the so-called “Government General” that forms the eastern half of German-occupied Poland. The “Government General” was described by Berlin as the area of “a free national life for Poles.” In this area Poles are classified as second-class citizens, the Germans being privileged in every respect, as befits the “Herren-volk” ruling over the Poles.

Deportations of Poles from incorporated territories to the Government General have resulted in an over-population of this area. On August 31st, 1939, there were 313.8 persons to the square mile, and now this figure has risen to nearly 370. Even Nazi officials admit that. In a special issue of the *Warschauer Zeitung* in August, 1940, Dr. Albert Weh, the legal adviser to the German Governor General, was the first to raise this matter. He said:

*“The position is difficult, as the proportion of the population to the area available is highly unsatisfactory.”*

Should the Germans succeed in their plan for Germanizing the illegally “incorporated” territory and deport nearly eight million Poles to the Government General there would be 560 persons to the square mile. As there is little industry in the Government General, as the soil is often poor and cannot feed a very large population—the idea of settling any such number of people there is nonsensical from a demographic and economic point of view.

The Germans also resort to another method of weakening the Polish element in the “incorporated” territories—they deport Poles to forced labor in the interior of Germany. There they are dispersed in purely German districts in the hope that they will become exhausted by excessive work and the effects of war, or denationalized under the influence of their surroundings. But in this respect Poles are particularly resistant. They withstood all attempts at Germanization in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, although then also they were dispersed throughout the Second Reich. Poles survived in the Third Reich as the most numerous national minority of close on 1,180,000 people. We may be certain, therefore, that Poles in the interior of the Reich will again survive, all the more so as there are now many more of them there than ever before.

Owing to the numerical strength of the Polish inhabitants and their stubborn resistance, it is almost impossible to solve the problem of Germanizing the incorporated Polish territories in any normal way. The Germans themselves are fully aware of this. That is why they do not stop short of the most brutal methods of mass murder and destruction of Polish youth.

German terror in the incorporated territories has been sufficiently described in official Polish publications. Here we

shall only state that the destruction of Polish youth—the biological base of the Polish nation’s strength, which is both stronger and more numerous than the same age groups of the German nation—is proceeding in two ways: methodical discrimination in food rationing and no less systematic physical overwork, intended to undermine the stamina of young Poles.

The prohibition of the sale of chocolate, rice, full-milk and even vegetables to Poles is aimed at lowering the nutrition of Polish youth.

In the *Ostdeutscher Beobachter* of November 11th, 1940, we find a decree of the Mayor of Poznan providing German children and young people with fruit. Poles are excluded from this arrangement.

The same paper on January 2nd, 1941, published an order forbidding the sale of wheaten bread or wheat-flour to Poles which, of course, adversely affects the diet of Polish children. And it must not be forgotten that the food-rations for Poles are much lower than those allowed to Germans.

The *Koelnische Zeitung* (No. 584 of 1940) in an article “Neues Leben im Osten” reveals a yet more brutal method of getting rid of Polish youth and preventing the Polish excess of births over deaths, so menacing to the Germans. A great number of Polish girls, aged between 12 and 14, children of Polish parents, have been sent to Germany from Lodz. The German paper states that these girls have been sent away not only to learn German, but also to become “German women.” The separation of young girls from their families to be brought up amidst strangers and their subsequent use as breeders for the decaying German people is perhaps the most brutal instance of the policy of Germanizing incorporated Polish territories.

Where population transfers fail, force is applied, and this is one of the main instruments of the policy of “*Ein-deutschung*.” It is not in vain that lectures like that of a certain Heinrich Weiss in December 1940 are being given at training courses for Nazi party workers in Poznan. The account of this lecture is characteristic:

*“Loud cheers showed that the speaker’s words had stirred the audience. These determined words deepened the conviction of us all that we must continue to wage a hard and ruthless struggle for the safeguarding of the German character of the east.”*

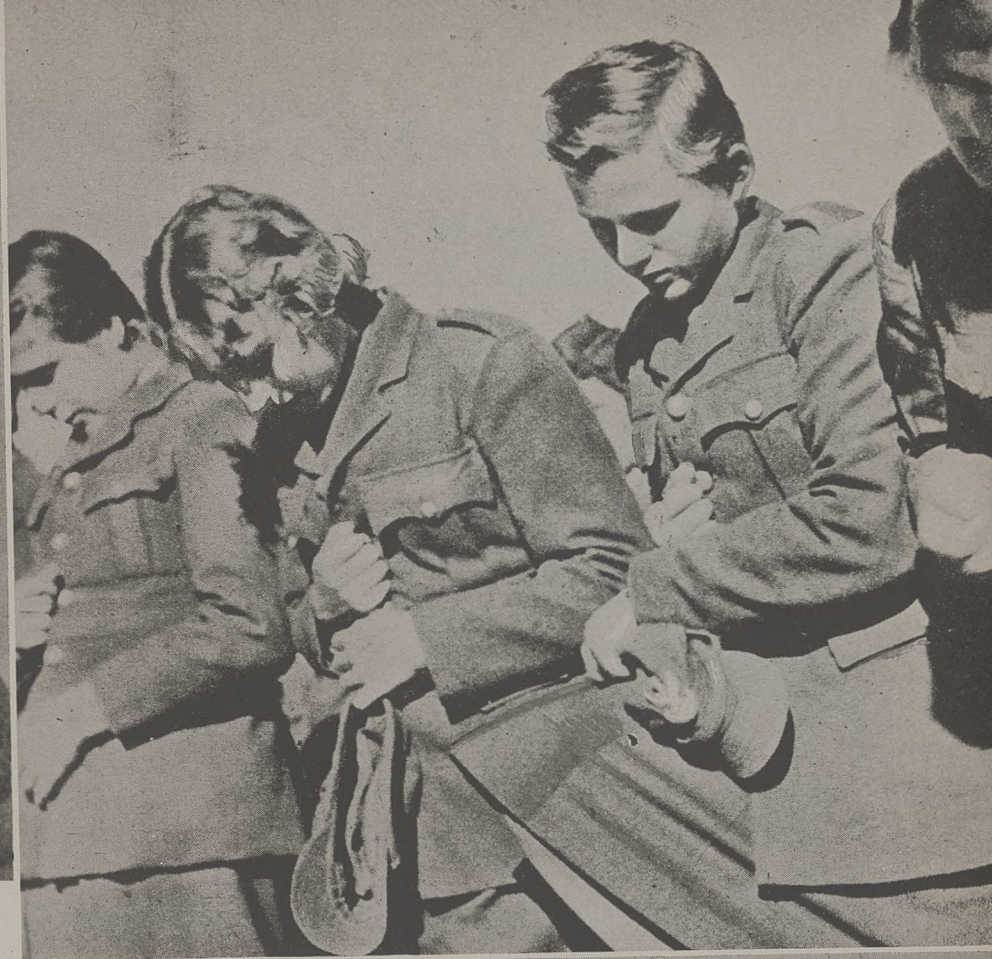
Always the same thought and the same aim recur. They were best expressed, with all their broad strategic and political implications, by General Hans von Seeckt:

*“Poland is the kernel of the eastern problem. The existence of Poland is intolerable and cannot be reconciled with the vital interests of Germany. Poland must perish; she will perish.”*

This verdict, uttered in 1920 by a German military leader and expert, is additional proof that throughout the ages Germany’s attitude to Poland has been as ruthless, spiteful and hate-obsessed as it is today in the full blast of Hitler’s policy of extermination.

*On the following pages is reproduced an article from the BASRAH TIMES, Iraq, with a number of camera studies of Poles from Russia during a Polish field Mass in a Palestinian camp. The deep emotions marking the faces of these men, women and children reflect the feelings of millions of Poles all over the earth for whom the one ray of light in a dark world is hope of final victory.*





## POLES PRIOR VICTORY



THE Sunday morning was clear and cold. The landscape—green orange groves and strips of cultivated ground alternating with sandy dunes—sparkled in the early morning sun. We had arrived at a large camp somewhere in Palestine to take photographs of the Poles there, men and women, who after their long trek from their homeland, through Russia to the Middle East, were equipping themselves to join again the fight against the common foe.

We found troops marching from all directions toward a central space where a temporary altar had been erected. A church parade such as I have never witnessed before.

The marching columns converge on the space before the altar—a body of Polish A.T.S., very smart with their large berets, soldiers in the ubiquitous British battle-dress but with the White Eagle of Poland on the cap; one or two

officers who had managed to preserve their distinctive Polish uniform.

Those present form a cross-section of Polish life. Most of them come from the country towns and villages of the Polish plain. The women are sturdy, broad-browed, with thick fair hair. Some are more approachable than the English "to hear." The only thing that broke this attentive silence was the distant, and from Warsaw, the modern rumble of military traffic on the main highway whose new buildings they were so proud of.

### Something Different

A hollow square was formed and the men and women, took their place in the ranks. The chaplain, a spare, tough-looking man with Slavonic features and deep-set eyes, began Mass. It was then that I noticed that this was something important.

### Pretence

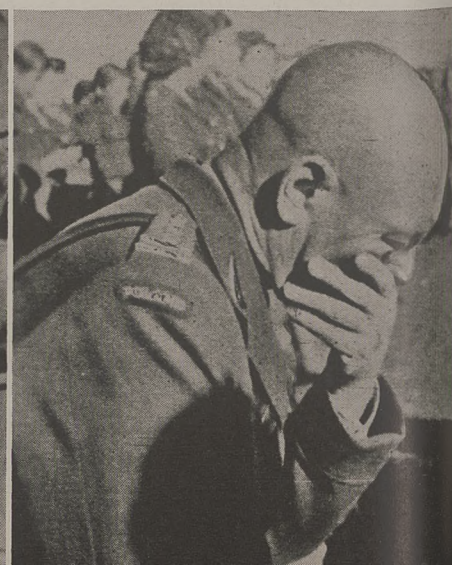
As the cameraman went round among the kneeling figures I was afraid that he might disturb the concentration of those present. As these pictures show I need not have feared. They were absorbed in what they were doing, and the clicking camera was simply not noticed. This, you will agree, particularly with women, is not usual. There are people who pretend they are ignorant of the fact that a camera is about.

Sometimes the pretence is good. But this time there was no pretence. They had something better to think about.

And of what were they thinking? The priest, in a simple talk to them, put it into words. They were performing this corporate act of prayer for Poland and for all that Poland stood. He mentioned Churchill and Roosevelt and the Atlantic Charter. All the Allies were fighting for the cause for which Poland had always stood: the essential liberties of man and the fundamental truth of the Christian faith.

It was plain, too, that their realization of the issues at stake was sharpened by experience. There is not one of them who has not lost mother or father, or wife or child in the national disaster. But the Poles are used to disasters. As the words of the Polish hymn *Jeszcze Polska nie zginęła* ("Poland has not perished while we still live") filled the air, I knew that theirs is a national and religious spirit that it is imperishable indeed.

F.B.





# WHEN THE 16th CENTURY CAME BACK TO ZAMOSC...



RESTORED ZAMOYSKI SQUARE IN ZAMOSC

**D**EEP in the rolling country of southeastern Poland nestles the ancient fortified town of Zamosc. It is a unique city, with a history as fascinating as its architecture. For Zamosc did not come into being through slow natural growth as most other cities. It was built all at once by the order of one man, Jan Zamoyski, who gave it his name and who left upon it the stamp of his Renaissance personality.

**J**AN ZAMOYSKI (1542-1605), one of the great Polish figures of the 16th century—Chancellor of Poland and King Stefan Batory's trusted adviser—had graduated from the University of Padua, where he had won distinction with a treatise on the Roman Senate. When only twenty, he was head of the student body and responsible for academic discipline. Until he died Zamoyski thought of his student years in Padua with warm affection. So when in 1578, the Polish chancellor decided to build a new city as a frontier defense against the Tartars, he commissioned an Italian architect, Bernardino Morandi, to model the new citadel after the classic beauty of Italian towns.

**W**ITHIN a year, along the highway running from Lublin to Lwow, where so far there had been no sign of human life, a network of streets was laid out and work was started on the high brick walls that were to surround the town. Thus began a city that was to play the

dual role of a fortress and a work of art. That its bastions and walls stood it in good stead is shown by the fact that although it was besieged in the course of its long and colorful history by Swedes, Tartars and Cossacks, it was never captured. That Morandi and the host of architects, such as Jan Jaroszewicz, Jan Michal Link, who worked with him and after him—did full artistic justice to Zamoyski's vision of an "ideal city," is proven by the fact that despite the passage of centuries, no important changes were made by the Poles either in the zoning of the streets of the old city or in the style of architecture of the various buildings. The building laws drawn up in 1601 remained in force right up to modern times.

**F**EW cities are as truly Renaissance as Zamosc. Within the irregular pentagon of jagged, now crumbling walls, is a network of streets and squares laid out in fine geometric design. And set at the foot of each street near the fortifications, closing the street optically, is an imposing public building. Zamosc boasts many such structures. There is the Chancellor's palace, the Academy, the only University founded and supported by an individual, the City Hall, the Greek Orthodox and Armenian Churches, the Synagogue, the Church of the Franciscan Friars, and countless other buildings of a public or semi-public nature.



RENAISSANCE PORTAL, ZAMOSC

**A**S in all medieval towns, the main arteries of Zamosc are those running east to west and north to south through the center of the town. These in turn are crossed at right angles by other streets. A characteristic feature of such a latticed arrangement is the formation of squares at strategic points. Thus we have the "water square," the "salt square," and one of the most perfect architectural creations in all Poland—Zamoyski Square.

**Z**AMOYSKI SQUARE, the main square of Zamosc, is in the very heart of the city, at the junction of the two axis lines. Paved in 1598, it differs from ordinary market places in that it was never used for buying and selling, but as a place for assembling of the population. The Square itself is formed by seven blocks of one- and two-story buildings, more or less of equal height. The eighth block is the graceful City Hall. In medieval towns the city hall generally stands in the center of the main square. In Zamosc this proved impracticable: the construction of the city hall in the center would have detracted from the beauty of the Chancellor's palace that needed an open space from which to be viewed. The construction of the City Hall on one side of the square instead of the center turned out to be a most happy solution. Here, its exquisite silhouette appears more delicate, accented by its soaring steeple, vertical lines and lace-like attic.

**B**UT the most charming feature of the market place is not the City Hall, nor the enchanting polychromy of the old houses, nor the quaint rows of cobblestones. Most appealing are the arcades, gracefully woven through the architecture of the eight blocks facing the square. Like an Italian canzonetta, this motif brought from distant Padua by a son of Italy, threads it way around the square and strangely enough seems very much at home in Slavic Poland. These arcades, with their superb vaultings, thick walls and heavy buttresses are perfectly preserved. Opening on the Square and the streets, their shade entices the wayfarer and they reward him with unexpected views and perspectives.

**O**NCE under the arcades the eye is caught by richly carved Renaissance stone portals, with their magnificent and intricately wrought iron grilles. Also beautifully decorated with fine reliefs are the facades of the individual houses. Plant and figure motifs predominate. Here and there can be seen the figure of a patron saint connected with the original builder. Armenian Street stands out by its opulence of design. Geometric patterns were also a popular ornamental motif among the architects of Zamosc. Of particular



ZAMOSC CITY HALL, SIDE VIEW

interest is the house of the Ronikiers with its two antique busts set in niches of the facade.

**U**P TO the 19th century, this market place remained true to its original character. The partitions of Poland, however, left their mark on Zamoyski Square and indeed, on Zamosc. Following the Polish insurrection of 1863 the Czarist Government tore down most of the fortifications leaving only fragments here and there. An arched entrance, a round tower, an underground passage, the city gates—this was all that remained. The palace was turned into barracks for Russian troops. But it was the main square that suffered most. In 1822, Gen. Malletski, who liked to dabble in architecture, took it upon himself to change the appearance of the City Hall to conform with "modern" ideas of art. Accordingly, he sought to change the Renaissance character by walling up entrances, plastering ornamentations and generally transforming the atmosphere of the Hall.

**G**OOD taste in architecture was not characteristic of the 19th century. So, Zamoyski Square was cluttered up with unnecessary buildings, balconies added to structures facing the Square, ugly signs and wires, Empire style additions to Renaissance buildings.

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MADONNA AND DRAGON, ZAMOSC





ARCADES IN ZAMOSC

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**S**AD indeed was the appearance of Zamoyski Square when Poland recovered her independence. Though still beautiful, it had lost much of its former splendor. To the Poles the past has always been of great importance, and few missions seemed more sacred to them than the resurrection of past glories. It was this that prompted the restoration of Wawel Castle in Cracow, of the Old City in Warsaw, and the same spirit in 1934 caused work to be begun on the restoration of the market square in Zamosc. The effort was considerable but the result was well worth while. In a few years the 16th century came back to Zamosc in all its splendor. All buildings facing the square were carefully gone over. All additions were removed, fifty balconies put up in the 19th century were torn down, the edges of the roofs were brought into line, disfiguring signs were summarily done away with. Stone details such as portals, door-frames, and thresholds, and stucco vaultings and



RENAISSANCE PORTAL, ZAMOSC

facades were thoroughly cleaned. Weather eaten reliefs on the facades were retouched. After this preliminary freshening up, the polichromy of the outer walls was begun. True to medieval style, the different buildings were painted in gay colors to form a definite but harmonious pattern. To emphasize the arcades running clear around the Square, the plaster on the lower level of all buildings was tinted the same hue. The greatest labor was expended on the City Hall. Polish architects pried loose the layers of stucco, ornamentation, etc., that hid the building's natural charm and restored it to its original state.

**T**HE work of restoration carried out in Zamosc was the joint effort of state and local authorities. And pride in this example of perfect Renaissance architecture was shared by the citizens of Zamosc and Poland alike. Although far from all beaten tracks, it became a popular goal for tourists, who felt themselves transported into the dim past when they strolled through its lovely arcades, peering into its old shops, and gazing at the fine plaster ornamentation within the vaulted arcades. The German attack in September 1939 halted all work on other parts of Zamosc. Today the restoration of an artistic heirloom such as Zamoyski Square pales into insignificance before the formidable post-war task of reconstructing the bomb-gutted buildings of all Poland. Yet, when the Poles set about rebuilding their homeland, the sense of beauty and historical fidelity shown by them in their work on Zamosc will spur them to greater efforts, so that Poland in the future may be worthy of her past.



ST. MARGARET'S HOUSE, ZAMOSC



# POLISH ECONOMY PROVED ITS WORTH !



PORT OF GDYNIA, PROOF OF POLISH EFFICIENCY

**A** THOUSAND-YEAR struggle with German aggression and greed; Tartar, Cossack and Turkish invasions up to the 15th century; the Swedish deluge; the partition of Poland by Germany, Russia and Austria at the end of the 18th century; periodic national insurrections in the 19th century; the two-fold aggression of her neighbors in 1939—such are the blood-stained mileposts marking Polish history. Yet in times of peace and even when heavy fighting was going on far from the center of the country, Poland made economic progress. Visible signs of this in the pre-partition period were the growth and splendor of Polish cities, the accumulation of wealth by the merchant class, and an expanding foreign trade, that consisted of enormous exports of wood and grain (more than one million metric tons of grain were exported in 1648) and the mounting imports of textiles, tea, coffee, spices, wines, olive oil and . . . herring.

Partitions in the latter part of the 18th century abruptly checked the development of Polish economy. It is true that early in the 19th century, strenuous efforts were made to industrialize that part of Poland set up by the Congress of Vienna as the Congress Kingdom. Prince Ksawery Lubecki, a great Minister of Finance, founded the Bank of Poland and invested it with wide authority as a currency issuing institution and animator of commerce and industry. Thanks to this step, there came into being between 1820 and 1830 a number of industrial enterprises, huge iron and steel works, textile mills, the first Polish chemical factory, paper works, glass works, etc.

But the economic policy of the partitioning powers was deliberately designed to prevent any improvement in Poland's economic situation. In the 19th century with the industrial revolution sweeping all Europe, nations accumulating wealth, great personal fortunes being made and trade flourishing, Poland was forced to remain the helpless spectator of her neighbors' progress.

Southern Poland had vast oil, salt and forest reserves, but

Vienna decreed that this natural wealth remain unexploited. In Western Poland, Prussian economic policy sought to turn the Polish lands into an exclusively agricultural reservoir of production. And although the coal and zinc wealth of Silesia made the exploitation of these valuable products necessary, even in this area the coordinated efforts of the Berlin government and of the industrialists of Westphalia and the Rhineland, permitted production only within the restricted limits of mining and elementary processing of raw materials. Central and Eastern Poland, under Russian dominion, also felt the harmful effects of economic restrictions prompted by political considerations.

Poland was one of the bloodiest battlefields of the first World War. Then came the evacuation of Russian troops and the German occupation to complete the devastation.

So, Poland began her new economic life in November 1918 under far worse conditions than any other country in Europe. Poland had to rely on her own resources to rebuild her shattered economy. She received no war damages. She received far less foreign credit than defeated Germany. The stream of American, British and French capital that poured into Germany, became a mere trickle by the time it reached Poland.

But despite apparently insuperable handicaps, by 1939 there could be no doubt that Polish economy had proved its worth. In twenty short years Poland created and was able to run her own economy with great efficiency and no small profit.

As a result of a far-reaching agrarian reform large land holdings of more than 125 acres constituted but 15 per cent of total arable land in 1939. No less than 6,500,000 acres had been parceled out and more than 700,000 new homesteads created. Industry, based on domestic agricultural and animal by-products, underwent considerable expansion. There was a tremendous increase in export to Great Britain and the United States of canned ham and bacon, rising from 1,000 tons in 1928 to 44,000 tons in 1937-1938.

Industrial growth was characteristic of this period. A cardinal point of Polish economic policy was to absorb into industry those leaving the overpopulated agricultural areas. The number of people earning their living in industry rose from 15% of the total population in 1921 to more than 20% in 1938. This meant the shift of some 1,750,000 million people from agriculture to industry. The value of industrial production in relation to general Polish production rose from 30% in 1929 to 50% in 1938. The mechanical and paper industries showed great improvement, whereas chemical and electrical industries were created virtually from nothing. New factories of nitrogen compounds, synthetic fibers, dyes, pharmaceutical products and plastics were built. Electrical engineering also furnished an entirely new branch of production. Modern factories of cables, lamps, telegraph and radio equipment were built. In 1939 Poland had 25,000 industrial plants (excluding small workshops) engaged in mining and smelting, mechanical, mineral, electrical, chemical, textile, paper, leather, lumber and food industries.

A striking instance of the rapid and many-sided development of an economically neglected part of the country was the creation of the Central Industrial District. Up to 1936 this southern zone of Central Poland was poor, overpopulated, and with no industry to speak of. In 1939 this area was

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# EDUCATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION IN POST-WAR POLAND

(Continued from page 3)

things have produced the German barbarism of today; a scientific barbarism, it is true, but a barbarism, nevertheless.

Poland also has little coal, iron, and oil, no copper nor cotton, the basis of modern industrialization. If it is to become strong and provide a better standard of living for its people, it must rely upon education and primarily the education of the laboratory rather than of the library. Japan did not have even as many natural resources as Poland. Its leaders determined to borrow the West's contribution to civilization, namely, science, military science, industrial science, and administrative science. It borrowed neither

the West's literature, nor its art, nor its philosophy. It too gave attention only to applying science to material things and it became powerful, but like Germany, it lost its soul in the process. Like the Germans today the Japanese are a de-moralized people.

Poland at the close of the war must also use the university and its laboratories for the purposes of industrialization. Its chief possession is its brains and by using its brains it can become strong. But if it neglects the library and the humanities, it may like Germany and Japan lose its soul and "what doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul."

## POLAND'S NAVY FIGHTS ON!

(Continued from page 6)

torpedo hits on the *Bismarck*. Later in the day the wounded giant was engaged by the battleships *King George V* and *Rodney*, which blasted her into a helpless wreck, after which she was finished off by torpedoes from the cruiser *Dorsetshire*.

After the battle Captain Vian sent the following message to Commander Eugeniusz Plawski, the *Piorun's* captain: "Many congratulations that you were the first ship of our forces to sight the enemy. I hope that you will be with me next time I go into action." To this message Commander Plawski replied: "We are proud to have been in your company and it will be the greatest honor for us to be in action under your command against the *Tirpitz*."

Other units added to the Polish Navy in 1941 were the submarine *Jastrzab* ("Hawk"), formerly the American *S-25* (800 tons, one 4-inch gun, four 21-inch torpedo tubes), and the destroyers *Krakowiak*, *Kujawiak*, and ex-British *Garland* (1,335 tons, four 4.7-inch guns, eight 21-inch torpedo tubes, 36 knots), whose new name is believed to be *Slazak*.\* No details concerning the *Krakowiak* and *Kujawiak* have been released, but both ships were probably of typical British design.

On March 14, 1942, the *Kujawiak* was instrumental in saving a convoy from damage by enemy air attack. The

\*The *Garland* retained its English name in Polish service, while the *Slazak* is a new ship built in Great Britain.

convoy, escorted by the *Kujawiak* and British units, was attacked seven times by three Junkers-88 bombers. The *Kujawiak's* anti-aircraft fire was so accurate that it not only prevented the planes from inflicting damage on the convoy, but scored hits on two of them, one of which crashed into the sea. The other plane was damaged.

Three months later the *Kujawiak* went down in one of the great air-sea battles in the Mediterranean. In this fighting, which lasted several days, Britain lost the light cruiser *Hermione*, four destroyers (including the *Kujawiak*), two "Hunt" class escort destroyers, and an undisclosed number of supply vessels which were being convoyed to Malta. Italy's losses included a heavy cruiser and two destroyers sunk and two battleships and several cruisers and destroyers damaged.

Another Polish destroyer, whose identity has not been revealed, participated with British and Free French warships in providing sea support for the great "Commando" raid on Dieppe on August 18, 1942. In this brilliant operation the Allied naval forces, although very heavily engaged by enemy aircraft and coastal batteries, lost only the escort destroyer *Berkeley* and a number of landing craft.

Needless to say, the foregoing incidents by no means comprise a full account of the brave and unceasing fight waged by the Polish Navy. Many other interesting actions, such as attacks on U-boats, have undoubtedly taken place, but censorship wisely prohibits mention of them.

## POLISH ECONOMY PROVED ITS WORTH!

(Continued from page 13)

electrified to a considerable degree and huge modern iron foundries and steel mills were working at full speed. Mechanical, munitions, and chemical factories and a large number of new industrial workshops were under construction.

Gdynia affords an even better illustration of the dynamic quality of Polish economy. A small fisherfolk settlement in 1921 with a population of 1,000, in 1938 Gdynia was the largest seaport on the Baltic with an annual turnover of almost 6½ million net registered tons.

These achievements of Polish labor are full of promise

for the future. Economic reconstruction and increased industrialization are the most urgent tasks that will face Poland after the war. There will be difficulties, of course, but the magnificent economic results obtained before the war will spur the Poles to new efforts and even greater achievement.

—T. Z.

Shown on the cover is a view of the Renaissance City Hall in Zamosc. For description see article on Zamosc on page 10.



# Soviets Execute Two Polish Labor Leaders

Great regret is expressed in American and Polish labor circles at the admission by Maxim Litvinov, Soviet Ambassador to the United States, to William Green, head of the A. F. of L., that two prominent Polish labor leaders, Henryk Erlich and Victor Alter were executed by the Soviet Government.

On behalf of the Central Committee of Jewish Workers Party Bund of Poland, Szmul Zygielbojm, a member of the Polish National Council, has sent the following open letter to the British Labor Party and to the Press:

"Comrades Erlich and Alter were first arrested by the Soviet authorities on Sept. 29th, 1939 in the Eastern part of Poland. They were kept in prison for nearly two years. In July 1941, six weeks after the U.S.S.R. was attacked by Hitler Germany, they were court-martialed under the nonsensical charge of working for the forces of the International Fascist reaction. Under such a charge they were sentenced to death.

"For two weeks they were kept in death cells of Moscow and Saratov prisons awaiting execution. Then they were notified that the highest authority had commuted the death penalty to a sentence of ten years penal servitude.

"After the conclusion of the Polish-Russian Pact, Erlich was released on Sept. 13, 1941 and Alter on Sept. 15th. Official apologies were tendered to them by the representative of the Soviet Government who admitted that a terrible mistake had been made and that the charge against them was false. We quote from a letter written by Erlich himself on Oct. 25th, 1941:

"Both of us had the death penalty commuted to sentence of ten years in a labor camp. Then we were released with great honors and given residence in the best hotel in Moscow and a complete set of clothes, and were put under medical care. Most important of all we were assured that the action taken against us was a mistake and that our collaboration in the fight against Hitlerism is a necessity both with regard to the interests of the U.S.S.R. and to those of the Jewish nation and Poland."

"We emphasize that this apology and declaration of the necessity of their cooperation in the struggle against Hitlerism were made only ten weeks before they were re-arrested. A very high official of the people's Commissariat for the Interior, Colonel Wolkowsky, proposed in the name of the Soviet-Government that they should organize in the U.S.S.R. a Jewish committee to fight Hitlerism, with branches in all other countries. To this they agreed, Soviet officials visited them very often, discussing with them the principles of the

program and the personnel of this committee. We are in possession of this program. According to this agreement, the Presidium of the Committee was to consist of comrade Erlich as chairman, comrade Alter as Secretary and the Soviet-Jewish artist Nichols as vice-chairman.

"The people's Commissar for Interior, Beria, himself invited Alter and Erlich to a special conference during which he had a long talk with them about the same matters. Then they were officially requested to send the entire material together with a covering letter and explanations to Stalin in order to obtain his official sanction for the above mentioned committee and to enable them to begin their activities. As requested at the beginning of October, 1941, comrades Erlich and Alter sent the letter to Stalin, a copy of which is in our possession. While awaiting Stalin's answer they did their utmost to rouse the enthusiasm of Polish citizens in the U.S.S.R. to join the Polish Army and fight alongside of the Red Army against the Hitlerite German hordes. At the same time the officials of the peoples Commissariat for the Interior made preparations for the work of this committee.

"A number of people proposed by Erlich and Alter as members of this committee—Dr. Schreiber, Gercowicz, etc.—were brought to Moscow. On October 15th Alter and Erlich were evacuated to Kuibyshev together with the diplomatic corps and the Government offices. In December 1941 at thirty minutes past midnight Alter was called to the telephone of the Grand Hotel in Kuibyshev where he then resided and asked to come over right away with Erlich to the Commissariat of the Interior. They left the hotel assuring their friends who were then with them that they would return soon. But they never came back, this was the re-arrest of our comrades.

"Since then the Soviet Government refused to give any information about them, in its reply to the Polish Government, declaring it regarded both Erlich and Alter as Soviet citizens. And now we find out that comrades Erlich and Alter have been executed—probably a long time ago. We have considered it necessary to give you the above facts in order to point out the magnitude of the crime committed against our two comrades and perhaps even against the international movement."

The New York Times carried an advertisement by the American representation of the General Jewish Workers Union of Poland that read in part: "Henryk Erlich, member of the Executive Committee of the Labor and Socialist International, and Victor Alter, member of the Executive Com-

## POLAND IS THE TEST!

"Poland is the test of Europe. The restoration and preserving of a powerful and independent Polish State is and must be among the very first of our political objects. ... It will henceforth be the necessary pivot upon which everything will turn, whether we can or cannot effect the restoration of Poland. If we cannot it will mean that forces destructive of all by which we have lived, have triumphed. ... We stand or fall by Poland; and 'we' means all our art, literature, philosophy, all the mighty heritage now at stake."

HILAIRE BELLOC

## NEUTRAL PRESS IN FAVOR OF POLISH-SOVIET UNDERSTANDING

### FROM SWEDEN

Stockholm, March—The entire Swedish press carries extensive dispatches from London and Washington on Polish-Russian relations.

The *Afton Tidning* under the caption "Polish-Russian conflict aggravating—U.S.S.R. refuses to recognize 1939 frontiers," publishes the communique from the Soviet Embassy in Washington containing the Kornejczuks article, and also the Reuter Dispatch from Moscow about Romers meeting with Stalin.

The *Afton Bladet* in an editorial expresses the hope that Stalin's conversations with Romer will improve the situation. The *Afton Bladet*, emphasizes Soviets' refusal to give up their claims to the Baltic countries.

The *Dagens Nyheter* publishes a long article from its London correspondent reporting the recent Polish-Russian misunderstanding and emphasizing the official British desire to adjourn the solution until after the end of the war, and the Polish efforts to clear up the situation now, particularly in view of the plans for federation that are supported by an important section of British public opinion, which repudiates the possibility of a solution of the situation in eastern Europe by unilateral action.

The correspondent writes that many Britishers hope that the opening of a second front and military activities on the continent by the Anglo-Saxon powers will render Russia more conciliatory, and that the remaining mistrust will then vanish.

### FROM TURKEY

Cairo, March—The most important daily in the Middle East, the *Bourse Egyptienne*, discussing Polish-Russo relations writes that although the Poles and the Russians signed a Treaty of Friendship on July 30th, 1941, it did not have the same effect as the Anglo-Soviet Pact, and from the beginning, the possibilities of misunderstanding between the two neighboring republics were exploited by enemy propaganda. It seems that a true understanding of their mutual interest ought to facilitate that good relationship that is so important for the peace of Europe.

The Russians as well as the Poles are determined to crush, once for all, the Teutonic menace that has always so heavily impeded the destiny of the Slavs. Only a strong Poland, situated as an outpost of slavism, will be able rightly to fulfil the difficult task of a buffer state that history or geography has assigned to her. Russia, whose vital interest it is to be allied to a strong Poland in the East and in the West to France restored to her position as a world power, will have to collaborate in the prompt restoration of the heroic republic which first sustained the shock of German aggression, in accordance with the spirit of the Atlantic Charter and of the Anglo-Russo Treaty. The history and geography of both states and the interest of Europe in general, impose an intelligent solution that will reconcile Russia's security and Poland's integrity. We can be sure that London and Washington will take up that task.

### CHOPIN A GERMAN!

The German fortnightly "Ostland" publishes an article claiming that Chopin was of German origin. Saying: "It is appropriate to consider Chopin's father of German descent, as his Alsatian ancestors were probably named Shobinger."



# LEST WE FORGET

## AFTER DEFEAT OF TEUTONIC KNIGHTS, POLAND BECOMES A GREAT POWER

1. Casimir (1333-1370), the only king the Poles called Great, gave Poland the place that was hers in the European system. He concluded peaceful agreements with Bohemia and the Teutonic Knights, regained for Poland her lost territory, and after repelling the Tartars, pushed Poland's frontier to Rumania.
2. Casimir was also known as the "Peasants' King," for he issued a special statute protecting the peasants against serfdom.
3. He granted charters to many cities, encouraged trade and the independence of the middle classes. During his reign many foreign settlers intermarried with the Polish population.
4. The Jews, persecuted in other countries, found an asylum in Poland. Casimir the Great, their protector, extended their liberty of domicile over the whole kingdom.
5. In 1364, Casimir established the first Polish University in Cracow which became the principal seat of learning and reflected Polish culture.
6. In Cracow, Emperor Charles IV married Elizabeth of Stettin at which time five other Kings witnessed the splendor of the Polish court.
7. In 1365, a Supreme Court of Justice was established in Cracow, with power to review the findings of all lower courts.
8. September 17, 1374—the first authentic "pacta conventa" (Polish Magna Charta) signed at Kassa between the Crown and the Polish nobility—granted privileges to the Polish "szlachta" and greater independence from the crown.
9. In 1386, Ladislas Jagiello, Grand Duke of Lithuania, on marrying Jadwiga, Queen of Poland, became King of Poland and he and the whole of Lithuania accepted Christianity. Thus Jagiello accomplished peacefully what the Teutonic Knights for two centuries had vainly endeavored to do by fire and sword.
10. July 15, 1410, at the Battle of Grunwald, the Polish army supported by the Lithuanians, broke the power of the Teutonic Knights. 18,000 of them fell, 14,000 were captured, with all their standards.
11. October 2, 1413, by the Union of Horodlo, Lithuania was voluntarily incorporated into the Kingdom of Poland. Lithuanian nobles were admitted to all privileges of knighthood.
12. 1425—a law was promulgated, guaranteeing the personal liberty of all Polish citizens.
13. In 1444, Ladislas III led a Crusade against Sultan Amurat—greatly outnumbered, he perished in the Battle of Warna in Bulgaria.
14. 1454—a parliamentary regime was established with a bi-cameral system, consisting of a lower chamber and a senate.
15. In 1454, under Casimir IV, a new defeat was inflicted on the Teutonic Order, the people of East Prussia siding with the Polish King.
16. By the Treaty of Torun, the whole Pomerania was returned to Poland; Marienburg, Elbing, Danzig and Torun were incorporated into the Polish State; the territory of the Knights now reduced to East Prussia became a Polish province held by the Grand Master in fief to the Polish Crown.
17. The Crown of Bohemia and Hungary were offered to Casimir's sons, thus Poland, Lithuania, Prussia, Bohemia, Hungary and Walachia came under the sceptre of the Jagiellonian dynasty.
18. In 1485, Casimir IV drove the Turks from Moldavia to Kolomea on the Pruth where a truce was signed by Bayezid II.
19. 1493 Diet of Piotrkow—the first seym of all Poland.
20. The dawn of the 16th century saw Poland the largest State in Europe, with an area of 386,000 square miles and the only country having democratic institutions.